

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 35057 012055Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 PA-02 INR-07 /032 W
-----023491 012058Z /64

P R 011718Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2464

UNCLAS PARIS 35057

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FOR IOP/M, IAA

FROM ARS

E.O. 11652 NA
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION--US AFRICA POLICY

1. AFRICA MAGAZINE (LONDON) DEVOTES DECEMBER COVER TO PRESIDENT CARTER PHOTO SUPERIMPOSED ON GLOBE WITH AFRICA IN CENTER. INSIDE, EDITORIAL AND FOUR STORIES COVERING ELEVEN PAGES DISCUSS US-AFRICAN RELATIONS, WITH EMPHASIS ON NIGERIA. TWO PAGE INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IS CENTERPIECE.

2. EDITORIAL BY CHIEF EDITOR RAPH UWECHUE IS TITLED, "AMBIDEXTEROUS DIPLOMACY." EXCERPTS FOLLOW. QUOTE...
SO FAR THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS SUCCEEDING IN IMPRESSING MANY UNCOMMITTED AFRICANS THAT AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE, IT TAKES THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA SERIOUSLY. THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE FOR A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT AND AMERICA'S SUPPORT FOR AN ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, EVEN IF THEY HAVE NOT GONE FAR ENOUGH, MARK A BREAK WITH THE PAST. THIS CHANGE EMANATES BY AND LARGE FROM ENLIGHTENED SELF-INTEREST. CARTER, UNLIKE HIS PREDECESSORS, REALIZES
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THAT IN THE COMPETITION FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INFLUENCE IN AFRICA, THE UNITED STATES HAS A BUILT-IN ADVANTAGE OVER HER RIVALS--RUSSIA AND CHINA--IF SHE EXPLOITED THE "BLACK CONNECTION." THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENT IN THE STRATEGY HAS BEEN ANDREW YOUNG. AS CARTER'S ENVOY HE HAS SUCCEEDED IN COINVINCING A GOOD NUMBER OF AFRICAN LEADERS THAT, IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES NOTWITH-

STANDING, THE NEW ADMINISTRATION MEANS BUSINESS IN ITS
EFFORT TO CHANGE AMERICA'S ROLE IN AFRICA. LIKE
MOST COURTSHIPS, CARTER'S AMOROUS ADVANCES HAVE BOTH
ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES. AFRICA'S AIM MUST BE TO
MAXIMIZE THE ADVANTAGES WHILE MINIMIZING THE DANGERS.
THIS CAN BE DONE BY DEVELOPING A BALANCED AMBIDEXTEROUS
STRATEGY TO COPE SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE TWO DISTINCT
ASPECTS OF THE UNITED STATES AS A COUNTRY WITH
30 MILLION PEOPLE OF AFRICAN ORIGIN AND AS A SUPER-POWER
WITH GLOBAL AMBITIONS. ON THE ONE HAND SUCH A
DUAL POLICY WILL MEAN AN INTENSIFICATION OF CULTURAL
AND ECONOMIC CONTACTS BETWEEN AFRICA AND THE UNITED
STATES WITH AFRICAN AMERICANS AS ACTIVE LINKS IN THESE
EXCHANGES. ON THE OTHER, IT WILL MEAN DEALING POLITICAL--
LY WITH THE UNITED STATES AS A SUPER-POWER, WITH THE
APPROPRIATE DEGREE OF CAUTION, AND IN THIS CONTEXT
TREATING HER STRICTLY AT PAR WITH RUSSIA AND CHINA.
THIS DIPLOMATIC BALANCE IS VITAL FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF AFRICA'S INDEPENDENCE, IN PARTICULAR IN MATTERS
INVOLVING DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: THIS EDITORIAL IS ONE OF MOST UPBEAT WE
HAVE SEEN BY AN AFRICAN EDITOR OF A EUROPE-BASED MAGA-
ZINE (AS DISTINGUISHED FROM SUCH EUROPEAN-EDITED MAGAZINES
AS "WESTAFRICA".) UWECHUE HAD MADE
SIMILAR POINTS ABOUT THE "NATURAL" AFRICA-US AFFINITY
DURING A DISCUSSION WITH THE ARS IO IN LONDON LAST
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JULY, REPORTED AT THAT TIME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS35057
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770446-0341
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197712105/aaaadkyg.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 51f3cefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 112664
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION--US AFRICA POLICY
TAGS: SOPN
To: USIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/51f3cefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009